Please replace the paragraph on page 1, lines 5 through 13 with the following paragraph:

<u>This Patent Application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/340,524, filed June 28, 1999, Attorney Docket No. CIS99-1324, entitled "METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR MANAGING A FLOW OF PACKETS USING CHANGE AND REPLY SIGNALS". The entire contents and teachings of this referenced application are hereby incorporated by reference herein.</u> A typical data communications network includes multiple host computers (or hosts) that communicate with each other through a system of data communications devices (e.g., switches and routers) and transmission media (e.g., fiber-optic cable, electrical cable, and/or wireless connections). In general, a sending host exchanges data with a receiving host by packaging the data using a standard protocol or format to form one or more network packets or cells (hereinafter generally referred to as packets), and transferring the packaged data to the receiving host through a system of data communications devices and transmission media. The receiving host then unpackages and uses the data.